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11-16-2005

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**Students, alumni get prime theater gig**

*Summary: The talents of UMM students, Sara Herman, Ryan Rysavy and Lauren Goodrich, along with UMM staff member, Tim Ray, were showcased during the Minnesota premier of "The Benevolent Women's Craft Society" at Prairie Wind Players' Roosevelt Hall in Barrett.*

(November 16, 2005)-The talents of University of Minnesota, Morris students, Sara Herman, Ryan Rysavy, and Lauren Goodrich, along with Media Services staff person, Tim Ray, were showcased during the recent Minnesota premier of "The Benevolent Women's Craft Society," which opened at Prairie Wind Players' Roosevelt Hall in Barrett.

Herman served as set designer, building and painting the set, along with Rysavy and Goodrich. Rysavy also worked as the technical director for the show. Ray, who received his bachelor's degree in theater from UMM and is on the PWP Board of Directors as past president, directed the comedy set in rural Minnesota. Ray has worked in Media Services at UMM for over 20 years. Co-producer for the play was another UMM graduate, Karen Alvstad '85 of Barrett.

"Despite the unnerving experience of having the playwright, his family and friends seated front row center during the Saturday evening performance," said Ray, "the actors and crew rose to the occasion and gave their best performance of the run."

"The Benevolent Women's Craft Society" was written by Mark Steven Jensen, of New Hope, who grew up on a farm near Kensington. The play, which has previously been produced in Green Bay and Sacramento, but never before in Minnesota, won the 2003 Grindstone Award for Comedy from the Mountain Playhouse, a professional theater in rural Pennsylvania.

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